

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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2 1. (currently amended) A head for string trimmer
3 machines including: a housing member having a central axis for
4 attachment to a string trimmer machine; and a serpentine guide path
5 in the housing member for receiving a length of trimmer line, the
6 guide path located in a plane including the central axis and
7 terminating in exit openings on opposite sides of the housing
8 member.
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11 2. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein the exit
12 openings are located in a second plane perpendicular to the plane
13 including the central axis, and wherein the guide path has a
14 portion thereof located above or below the second plane.
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16 3. (Original) A head according to Claim 2 wherein the exit
17 openings are located on diametrically opposite sides of the housing
18 member.
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21 4. (Original) A head according to Claim 3 wherein at least
22 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line
23 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.
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1 5. (Original) A head according to Claim 4 wherein the housing
2 member includes an upper housing portion and a lower housing
3 portion with the guide path formed by cooperating parts of the
4 upper and lower housing portions.
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6 6. (Original) A head according to Claim 5 wherein the upper
7 and lower housing portions are releasably interconnected with one
8 another.
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10 7. (Original) A head according to Claim 6 wherein the lower
11 housing portion has an upper side and a lower side, with the upper
12 side thereof releasably interconnected with the upper housing
13 portion and the lower side thereof exposing part of the guide path
14 to permit insertion and removal of a segment of string trimmer line
15 thereat.
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18 8. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 7 wherein
19 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing
20 portions of the housing member is effected by spring tabs extending
21 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding
22 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable
23 engagement by the spring tabs.
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1 9. (Original) A head according to Claim 8 including a second
2 serpentine guide path in the housing member located in a second
3 plane including the central axis, the second guide path
4 terminating in a second set of exit openings on opposite sides of
5 the housing member.
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7 10. (Original) A head according to Claim 9 wherein the guide
8 paths are perpendicular to one another.
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10 11. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 including a second
11 serpentine guide path in the housing member located in a second
12 plane including the central axis, the second guide path terminating
13 in a second set of exit openings on opposite sides of the housing
14 member.
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16 12. (Original) A head according to Claim 11 wherein the guide
17 paths are perpendicular to one another.
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19 13. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein the housing
20 member includes an upper housing portion and a lower housing
21 portion with the guide path formed by cooperating parts of the
22 upper and lower housing portions.
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1 14. (Original) A head according to Claim 13 wherein the upper
2 and lower housing portions are releasably interconnected with one
3 another.
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5 15. (Original) A head according to Claim 14 wherein the lower
6 housing portion has an upper side and a lower side, with the upper
7 side thereof releasably interconnected with the upper housing
8 portion and the lower side thereof exposing part of the guide path
9 to permit insertion and removal of a segment of string trimmer line
10 thereat.
11

12 16. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 15 wherein
13 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing
14 portions of the housing member is effected by spring tabs extending
15 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding
16 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable
17 engagement by the spring tabs.
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20 17. (Original) A head according to Claim 1 wherein at least
21 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line
22 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.
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1 18. (Original) A head according to Claim 17 wherein the exit
2 openings are located on diametrically opposite sides of the housing
3 member.

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5 19. (Currently amended) A head for string trimmer machines
6 including:

7 an upper housing portion having a central axis for
8 attachment to the drive shaft of a string trimmer machine;

9 a lower housing portion for releasable interconnection
10 with the upper housing ~~member~~ portion , and having a central axis
11 aligned with the central axis of the upper housing portion ~~member~~;
12 and
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14 cooperating channels on the upper housing portion and the
15 lower housing portion forming a non-linear serpentine guide path
16 for a length of trimmer line, the guide path located in a plane
17 including the central axes of the upper and lower housing portions
18 and terminating in exit openings on opposite sides thereof.
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21 20. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 19 wherein
22 the exit openings are located in a second plane perpendicular to
23 the plane including the central ~~axis~~ axes, and wherein the guide
24 path has a portion thereof located above or below the second plane.
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1 21. (Original) A head according to Claim 20 wherein at least
2 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line
3 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.

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5 22. (Original) A head according to Claim 19 wherein at least
6 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line
7 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.

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10 23. (Original) A head according to Claim 22 wherein the guide
11 path has, at least in part, a cross-sectional configuration
12 conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of a string trimmer
13 line to be guided therein.

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15 24. (Currently amended) A head according to Claim 23 wherein
16 the releasable interconnection of the upper and lower housing
17 portions ~~of the housing~~ is effected by spring tabs extending
18 upwardly from the lower housing ~~portions~~ portion with corresponding
19 tab-engaging shoulders on the upper housing portion for releasable
20 engagement by the spring tabs.

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23 25. (Cancelled)
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1 26. (Original) A head according to Claim 19 wherein the guide
2 path has, at least in part, a cross-sectional configuration
3 conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of a string trimmer
4 line to be guided therein.
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6 27. (Original) A head according to Claim 26 wherein at least
7 the portion of the exit openings in contact with a trimmer line
8 when pulled outwardly from the exit openings is metal.
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10 28. (Original) A head for string trimmer machines including:
11 a housing member having a central axis and adapted for attachment
12 to the drive shaft of a string trimmer machine; and means in the
13 housing member for guiding a length of string trimmer line in a
14 serpentine path in a plane including the central axis, the path
15 terminating in exit openings on opposite sides of the housing
16 member.
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18 29. (Original) A head according to Claim 28 further including
19 means for providing access to the non-linear guide path at a point
20 intermediate the length of the guide path.
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1 30. (Original) The head according to Claim 29 wherein the
2 cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the guide
3 path is a rectangular cross section.

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5 31. (Original) The head according to Claim 28 wherein the
6 cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the guide
7 path is a rectangular cross section.
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